

## Manufacturing Caucus Formed

Earlier this year I was among the founding members of the legislature's new, bipartisan Manufacturing Caucus, a group formed to underscore the importance of manufacturing and advanced manufacturing in Connecticut. A key component will be to match the new requirements of manufacturers with the knowledge, skills and experience of Connecticut's workforce.



## Autism Awareness

The State Capitol hosted Autism Awareness Day again this year. Until recently autism afflicted about one in 250; now autism affects approximately one in 88 children. I've made autism awareness a priority and continue working to provide more insurance coverage for testing, diagnosis and treatment.



## PANDAS Study Imminent

The Senate unanimously approved my bill to compel a study of Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS). PANDAS seems to be caused by strep or other infections when antibodies made to fight the infection instead mistakenly attack the portion of the brain controlling thought and muscle function.



## Hall of Fame Induction

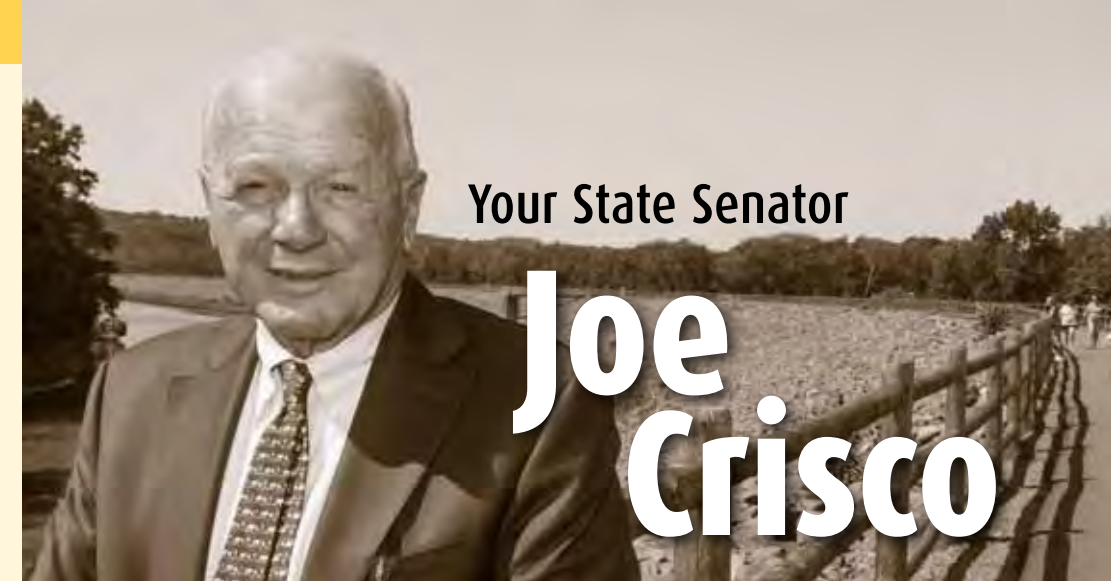
At its April induction I became a new member of the Wilbur Cross High School's Athletic Hall of Fame. Beyond a lifelong commitment to high school and college sports, the nominating committee acknowledged my considerable legislative achievements, particularly in the field of health care and insurance coverage for medical conditions and treatments.



I recently participated in Fire Ops 101 at the City of Hartford Fire Department Training Center—that's me, above, being outfitted with a breathing apparatus. This program put me and other guests into the heat of battle, responding to a structure fire, motor vehicle accident and an emergency medical incident. I appreciate the preparation offered by Hamden Firefighter Jeff Pechmann, second from right, who set up the gear and air pack and guided me through the training.



I'm a strong supporter of the state's university system and especially the UConn athletic program. Everyone can be proud of our UConn Women's Basketball team and the work done by head coach Geno Auriemma, shown here as he enters the Senate Chamber for Husky Day at the Capitol in April.



Your State Senator

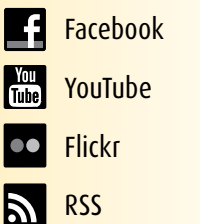
# Joe Crisco

Representing the residents of  
Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany,  
Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck & Woodbridge

Legislative Office Building • Room 2800 • Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
860-240-0189 or 1-800-842-1420  
[www.SenatorCrisco.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorCrisco.cga.ct.gov)



Visit me on the Web  
to contact me, sign up  
for my e-newsletter,  
or to follow me on:



PSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD CT  
PERMIT NO. 3937



# Your State Senator Joe Crisco

## Resources

In addition to our work this session, last October we passed an historic, bipartisan Jobs Bill to help small businesses and workers by improving access to capital, job training and education. Below is a list of programs—and contact info—that could benefit you or someone you know.

- **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org)
- **Small Business Express Package** to get funding for your small business: [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org), or contact Michelle Lugo at 860-270-8052 or [michelle.lugo@ct.gov](mailto:michelle.lugo@ct.gov)
- **STEP Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: contact Rina Bakalar at the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, 860-263-6523 or [rina.bakalar@ct.gov](mailto:rina.bakalar@ct.gov)
- **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: [www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP](http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP)
- **Job & Career Connection** for details on job and training programs: [www.ctjobandcareer.org](http://www.ctjobandcareer.org)

To learn more, visit: [www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs)



## Education Reforms

Every child deserves a first-class education. That's why we worked with teachers, education advocates and Governor Malloy to pass an historic education reform plan. It provides interventions and innovative new strategies for high-need schools and support for children and families. It invests in communities and ensures high-quality teaching in the classroom. The new law provides:

- Funding for 1,000 new early childhood slots
- 20 new or expanded school-based health centers
- Kindergarten through third grade reading programs
- Innovative approaches to teaching English Language Learners
- Increased funding for new and existing Family Resource Centers
- A fair and validated evaluation system that will help teachers improve
- Additional funding to school districts across the state



Above: Briefing Governor Malloy at the Emergency Operations Center in the Bethany Firehouse on recovery efforts following the late-October snowstorm.

## JOBS

How do you improve on one of the most successful Connecticut job-creation and economic assistance plans ever devised?

You make it available to even more businesses and employees.

This year Senate Democrats expanded the Jobs Bill that we originally approved last October. That means:

- Extending incentives to thousands of additional small and medium size businesses which will lead to more state manufacturers hiring, buying, training and expanding;
- Additional job-training support for post-9/11 combat veterans through the expansion of our new state STEP-Up Program;
- A 'Connecticut Made' marketing campaign that advertises and markets locally made products;
- And a stronger "First Five" business incentive program that gives preference to companies that move jobs from overseas back to Connecticut.

## Protecting Consumers, Fighting Price Gouging

Last year we saw some of the worst of what Mother Nature has to offer. Record-breaking snowfall and a powerful tropical storm wreaked havoc, causing downed trees, power outages and roof collapses. We came together as a state to clean up and repair homes after the storms.

In the Senate, we crafted legislation that extends protections from price-gouging to emergency lodging and weather-related services such as snow removal, flood abatement, clean-up and repairs.

The package we passed in the Senate went even further by protecting people against:

- Unnecessary collection of Social Security Numbers;
- Deceptive automatic renewal language buried in the fine print of introductory offers; and,
- Telemarketers giving false or misleading identifying information.

Though not all of these bills passed in the House, they are important issues that the General Assembly should remain focused on next year.

## Relief at the Pump

This session I helped pass a comprehensive plan that caps the gross receipts tax by applying it to only the first \$3 a gallon when gas is sold on the wholesale market. The plan also strengthens protections against price gouging, cracks down on oil profiteering, and requires that savings from the cap get passed along to consumers.

We can't affect the price of oil on the international exchange—but we can give our Dept. of Consumer Protection and Attorney General tools to ensure large oil wholesalers don't take advantage of rising prices to unfairly gouge consumers.

